

- ◆ Central Zoo Authority has organised regular courses with Wildlife Institute of India, Dehra Dun for capacity building and grading the skills of zoo managers, zoo supervisors and zoo veterinarians. They have also been sent to small courses to Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, U.K. for exposure to zoo management in the developed countries.
- ◆ All the zoos having lions and tigers in their collection have been asked to carry out screening of these animals for blood borne diseases and to take preventive and prophylactic action.
- ◆ The overcrowding of tigers and lions should be reduced by transferring animals to other zoos.
- ◆ Zoo authorities have been directed to beef up the security.

National policy for empowerment of women

4627. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the National Policy for Empowerment of Women;

(b) if so, whether National and State-level councils would be set up to oversee operationalisation of this policy;

(c) whether the National Council would be headed by the Prime Minister and the State Councils by the respective State Chief Ministers;

(d) the main aims of this proposed policy; and

(e) to what extent this policy would be implemented throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) and (c) The Policy envisages setting up of a Council headed by the Prime Minister at the National to oversee

implementation of the Policy and similar councils to be set up at State level to be headed by the concerned Chief Ministers.

(d) The goal of the Policy is to bring about advancement, development and empowerment of women through a process of change in societal attitudes towards women, elimination of all forms of discrimination against women in all spheres of life and activities. It will empower women both socially and economically. The Policy will guide and inform action at levels and integrate women's concerns and perspectives into all macro level initiatives.

(e) The Policy envisages that all Central and State Ministries/ Departments would be required to draw up Action Plan with measurable goals to be achieved in a time frame of the next 10 years.

Conversion of Roorkee University as IIT

4628. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to convert Roorkee University into an IIT;

(b) if so, whether the conversion process has started;

(c) whether the Regional College of Engineering is also proposed to be converted into IIT; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) No Regional Engineering College (REC) is proposed to be converted to an IIT.